

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:  
2 image pickup means which ~~pickups~~ captures ~~a photogenic~~ an image of a  
3 subject and generates a pickup image signal;  
4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and  
5 outputs a pickup image signal;  
6 processing means for executing one or more image modification processing  
7 techniques ~~image modification processing means~~ which subjects the pickup image  
8 signal to an image modification processing to produce a modified image signal for  
9 protecting a portrait right;  
10 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal  
11 from the pickup signal processing means and a the modified image signal ~~from the~~  
12 ~~image modification processing means~~; and  
13 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image  
14 signal selection means.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from  
3 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ at a time of starting  
4 communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the  
5 pickup signal processing means in response to an operational instruction from a  
6 calling party.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from  
3 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ at a time of starting  
4 communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the  
5 pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation of authentication of a  
6 partner side of a calling party.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a defocusing

3 processing for placing an image based on the pickup image signal in a defocused  
4 state.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a deforming  
3 processing for converting two-dimensional positional information of pixels in the  
4 pickup image signal at an arbitrary ratio.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a resolution  
3 reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup image signal.

A 1 Claim 7 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein  
2 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a tone  
3 resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution of the pickup image  
4 signal.

1 Claim 8. (new) A video telephone comprising:  
2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a  
3 pickup signal;  
4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and  
5 outputs a pickup image signal;  
6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal  
7 to an image modification processing for protecting a portrait right, said image  
8 modification including one or more of defocusing processing, deforming processing,  
9 resolution reducing processing, tone resolution reducing processing, diffusing image  
10 processing, transverse blurring processing, and contour extracting processing;  
11 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal  
12 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the  
13 image modification processing means; and  
14 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image  
15 signal selection means.

1 Claim 9 (new) A video telephone according to claim 8, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1 Claim 10 (new) A video telephone according to claim 8, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling  
6 party.

1 Claim 11 (new) A video telephone comprising:  
2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a  
3 pickup signal;  
4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and  
5 outputs a pickup image signal;  
6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal  
7 to defocusing processing for placing an image based on the pickup image signal in a  
8 defocused state;  
9 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal  
10 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the  
11 image modification processing means; and  
12 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image  
13 signal selection means.

1 Claim 12 (new) A video telephone according to claim 11, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1 Claim 13 (new) A video telephone according to claim 11, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling  
6 party.

1 Claim 14 (new) A video telephone comprising:  
2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a  
3 pickup signal;  
4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and  
5 outputs a pickup image signal;  
6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal  
7 to deforming processing for converting two-dimensional positional information of  
8 pixels in the pickup image signal at an arbitrary ratio;  
A 9 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal  
10 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the  
11 image modification processing means; and  
12 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image  
13 signal selection means.

1 Claim 15 (new) A video telephone according to claim 14, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1 Claim 16 (new) A video telephone according to claim 14, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling  
6 party.

1 Claim 17 (new) A video telephone comprising:  
2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a  
3 pickup signal;  
4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and  
5 outputs a pickup image signal;  
6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal  
7 to resolution reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup image  
8 signal;  
9 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal  
10 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the  
11 image modification processing means; and  
12 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image  
13 signal selection means.

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1 Claim 18 (new) A video telephone according to claim 17, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1 Claim 19 (new) A video telephone according to claim 17, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling  
6 party.

1 Claim 20 (new) A video telephone comprising:  
2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a  
3 pickup signal;  
4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and  
5 outputs a pickup image signal;

6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal  
7 to tone resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution of the pickup  
8 image signal;

9 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal  
10 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the  
11 image modification processing means; and

12 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image  
13 signal selection means.

1 Claim 21 (new) A video telephone according to claim 20, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

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1 Claim 22 (new) A video telephone according to claim 20, wherein the image  
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image  
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter  
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing  
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling  
6 party.

1 Claim 23 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said image  
2 modification processing is accomplished using a multi-purpose CPU or a digital  
3 signal processor.

1 Claim 24 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 processing means is a digital signal processor.

1 Claim 25 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 processing means is a multi-purpose CPU.